THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The whole country will benefit from the project. However, the alignment of highways passes through 17 States in the country.

Inter-connection of Metro cities with NHs

5452. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to connect all the metropolitan cities through National Highways by 2003;

(b) if so, the names of those metropolitan cities which are still not inter connected by National Highways;

(c) whether the safety aspect on National Highways have been grossly ignored by the Union Government since the past several years resulting frequent robberies and plundering of vehicles; and

(d) if so, whether Government in consultation with State Government would formulate any strategy to deal the situation, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) All the metropolitan cities in the country are already connected through national highways.

(c) No, Sir, as far as the Ministry is concerned.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of NHs in Orissa with World Bank assistance

5453. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads which have been taken over from Orissa by the Central Government to be constructed and developed as the National Highway with the World Bank assistance;

(b) whether Government have taken over Panikauli Rajamunda road in Orissa as the National Highway and proposed to construct this road with the assistance of World Bank;

(c) what is the total estimated amount to be spent on the road and completion time; and

(d) whether Government will consider these roads as the National roads and extend it up to Dhamara, Chandbali via Jajpur and Aradikhetra Akhandalamani?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) One work of 4 laning Cuttack-Bhubaneshwar section at a cost of Rs. 218.41 crore is in progress with the World Bank loan assistance in the State of Orissa.

(b) Panikauli Rajamunda road has been declared a National Highway, however there is no proposal for World Bank funding for this road.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The declaration of the roads in question as new National Highways would depend upon proposals received from State Government, fulfilment of criteria, inter-se priority, and availability of funds.

Upgradation of NH falling along the alignment of Golden Quadrila- teral

5454. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved a plan of upgrading National Highways falling along the alignment of Golden Quadrilateral;

(b) if so, what is the total expenditure involved;

(c) what will be the source of the fund; and

(d) what are the targets fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total expenditure involved would be approximately Rs. 24,000 crores.

(c) The funds for the Golden Quadrilateral project will be made available from the Cess on Petrol and Diesel, external aid *i.e.* Loan from World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc., market borrowings and private sector participation.

(d) This work is targeted to be completed by the year 2003.